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THE SUFFOLK JOURNAL

VOLUME 80, NUMBER 10

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February 1, 2017

In the news

Suffolk University staff union files for election in march to Acting President Marisa Kelly's office. **Page 2.**

Former Vietnam War correspondent turned poet visits Suffolk and reflects on past experiences with the written word. **Page 5.**

Theatre student up for Planet Earth award for her 10-minute script "Full of Life." **Page 6.**

Women's march portrayed strength, but was not inclusive. Courtesy of columnist Halaina Leblanc. **Online only.**



Images of recent Boston protests rallying against Trump. Courtesy of Haley Clegg. **See: Uncovered with Flash blog.**

Women's basketball gains eight-game winning streak. **Page 11.**

PERSPECTIVE PATRICK HOLMES

"An opinion is no longer valid if it infringes upon the rights of another person, if it is hateful or demeaning, or if it is substituted for fact." **Page 10.**

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Haley Clegg/ Photo Editor

Mayor Marty Walsh, U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren and City Councilor and Mayoral candidate Tito Jackson joined demonstrators in Copley Square on Sunday; a march that would end on the Massachusetts State House steps in a demonstration against President Trump's executive order.

Boston officials, Suffolk community push back against executive order on immigration

By Alexa Gagosz
Editor-in-Chief

The most recent executive order from the Oval Office on immigration has sent shockwaves throughout college campuses. At Suffolk University where the international student population bears at 23 percent, some have expressed their private outrage.

Demonstrations erupted in Boston and across the country throughout the weekend after the order was signed Friday. Newly inaugurated President Donald Trump's ban was on seven predominantly Muslim nations from entering the United States for 90 days: Iran, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Yemen, Libya and Sudan.

Despite the support that citizens

from these affected countries have received in recent days, some live in fear. One Suffolk student from one of the seven affected countries, although known to be privately distraught over the order, declined to be interviewed with The Suffolk Journal due to their name becoming public.

Fellow students such as Student Government Association Vice President Daniel Gazzani, a Venezuelan native, explained in a Tuesday night interview with The Journal that it's not just those from the seven nations that are fearful.

"I read an article today that said Trump might extend that ban to countries that are a safe haven for terrorists, and Venezuela was included on the list because the Venezuelan government actually



Haley Clegg/ Photo Editor

**Acting President
Marisa Kelly**

See *ORDER* page 3

Trump gets to work, signs seven executive orders

Nick Viveiros
Journal Contributor

Newly inaugurated President Donald Trump has wasted no time after taking the oath of office, signing a variety of game-changing executive orders and presidential memoranda that deal with some of his core promises from the campaign trail.

In his first act as president, Trump signed an executive order to begin laying the

groundwork for the full repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), former President Barack Obama's hallmark legislation which fundamentally altered the way healthcare is administered in the United States. While the order, officially titled "Minimizing the Economic Burden of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Pending Repeal," does not immediately alter the ACA, colloquially known as "Obamacare," it

allows for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to "waive or delay the implementation of" key provisions of the ACA, according to Politico.

Day one of the Trump administration also brought drastic changes to the way the government operates. Hours after being sworn into office, White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus said in an official memorandum directed

toward federal agency heads that the president had ordered a federal regulatory freeze. The order, issued in the form of a Presidential memorandum, directs all federal agencies to cease the implementation of new regulations "until a department or agency head" appointed by Trump is able to review them, according to the White House website. The memorandum also

See *TRUMP* page 4

Gazzani stays true to campaign promises

VP remains humble since win last year, gains confidence in Suffolk's future

Chris DeGusto
News Editor

A year ago, Daniel Gazzani was the only international student to run for an executive board position of the Suffolk University Student Government Association. He won the election and now the Venezuelan native reflects back on his campaign agenda and promises to the Suffolk community of representing all students on campus regardless of their background.

He vowed to ensure that more international students would become increasingly involved on campus and in SGA, while he simultaneously collaborated with Suffolk's administration to tackle issues that are important to the student body.

In an interview on Tuesday night, Gazzani told reporters of The Suffolk Journal that going forward, SGA would need dedicated and relentless board members in order to facilitate change at the university.

"We need passionate people to take these roles on if you want to see the job done right," said Gazzani.

More than six months after he assumed office, his objectives have remained the same as the day he launched his campaign.

"I can't promise you I'm going to get everything done, what I'm going to promise you is that I'm going to try my hardest and push the administration as hard as I can so that they deliver," he said.

As vice president, Gazzani had set out to include more international students in

See *SGA* page 4

Testa's start-up set to test the market

Nathan Espinal
Journal Staff

Being impaired by a motorcycle accident only made Testa's desire to become CEO of his own company to grow fiercer, which he accomplished without yet gaining his degree.

Testa is the founder and CEO of WarmUp, a company whose aim is to provide nutritional supplements for fitness-focused individuals. The first product, available to purchase on Amazon in March, is WarmUp Protein Coffee, an idea Testa thought up during his recovery from the motorcycle accident that occurred two years ago.

He wasn't sure how to go about bringing this idea into fruition, and enrolled into ENT-340: Crowdfunding the Venture, co-taught by Suffolk University business professors Jenni Dinger and Chaim Letwin. It was in this course that he was able to, along with classmate Kenny Ozeki,

learn the skills necessary to bring his brand to life.

Since the product's inception, the campaign that was created for the product has passed the \$8,000, for start-up costs and licensing agreements, by more than \$500 dollars with 200 backers. The WarmUp brand has been named one of the top five student startups by BostInno.com this past December. Testa has been in contact with Jimmy Wiggins, former Super Bowl Champion with the New England Patriots, and has been featured in several local Boston papers, such as the Beacon Hill Times and the East Boston Times.

The opportunity to graduate with a degree in Entrepreneurship as a CEO of a business should come as no surprise to those who know Testa.

"I've always looked up to big business men," said Testa. "Anyone that's known me since I was a little kid has known that I've said, 'I want to own my own business.' I'd rather work 100 hours

for myself than forty for someone else."

If one thing is to be understood, it is that WarmUp is undoubtedly Testa's brand. The amount of effort that he has put into this company is made clear by Dinger and Ozeki, and they attribute its positive response to his unwavering determination to get his business known.

Dinger said to The Suffolk Journal in an interview on Tuesday that Testa is at a point that entrepreneurs' face, where some may not proceed further and others push past it. She believes he's more than capable of proceeding forward and finding success.

"He was out pounding the sidewalks talking to anybody he could," said Dinger of Testa's tenacity to get his product out there. "It's interesting, because I think he's at this point of growth where he had a successful crowdfunding campaign, he's ramping up to a launch on Amazon, but

it's getting to the point where he might have to bring on a partner so he can manage that process."

Ozeki, also a senior in entrepreneurship, was Testa's partner during the course. He said he learned a great deal from this experience that he hopes to share with businesses back home.

"I helped with the Kickstarter and sending emails, which was new to us," said Ozeki of his contribution. "I also worked on the Instagram page and spread the hashtag there, #WarmUpCoffee. A lot of people are still liking the posts and that's pretty cool."

When looking to the future of the WarmUp, Testa said that once he has gained enough sales on Amazon, he would then use that leverage to push his product into stores like Walmart and other major retail companies.

For those eager to get their hands on this product the wait is not too long.

'Our Suffolk' makes moves toward Labor Board

Alexa Gagosz
Editor-in-Chief

The "Our Suffolk" organization of staff members took a symbolic and monumental march from the front doors of 73 Tremont to Acting President Marisa Kelly's office to present a letter that explained that the organization had filed to have an election with the National Labor Board last Tuesday.

"We're asking them to give full faith and credit to our ability to negotiate with the university and the National Labor Relations Board in order to form a union," said Meri Power-Ayer of Suffolk University's Political Research Center. "We are asking them to not expend precious university resources trying to hold up or in any way disrupt our legal right to have a union election."

With staff members who have fought tirelessly for the creation of the union as well as both undergraduate and graduate students in attendance, the group had traveled up to the 13th floor to hand over the letter that beared 24 signatories from across Suffolk. Kelly, who was in meetings throughout the morning, wasn't able to receive the letter from the union leaders, but instead did so from her assistant later that day.

"Today we have filed a petition with the National Labor Relations Board toward the goal of uniting together to form a new union with Service Employees International Union Local 888," the letter started. "It is our sincere hope that university management will not spend its limited resources to prevent us from having a respectful and fair election. In turn, we the workers and the community that supports us, will continue to uphold the mission of the university we all work so hard for every day."

In order to file the election, the union had to show the Labor Board that Suffolk had interest in forming a union. In

order to do this, at least 30 percent of the eligible workforce had to sign union cards to display that the organization had the minimum percentage to file an election. Our Suffolk succeeded in finding the 30 percent interested. After the Labor Board has gone through the process of reviewing the union cards, the Board will then work with the university to set an election time and place, according to an "Our Suffolk" member.

"We've been working a long time, we've been working really hard to make sure our support is spread across campus," said Power-Ayer. "We have a real coalition of support and we're hoping to make this a great place to work like we know it can be."

Library Circulation Assistant Jim Alexander of the Mildred Sawyer Library said that from his perspective, it's about the stakeholder's voice.

"This university is a community and communities are built on engagement and people actually participating. I think Suffolk really needs a boost on that," said Alexander. "That's what we're trying to do."

Esther Anastasia, of the physics department, explained that much like the women's march that was formed after newly inaugurated President Donald Trump was sworn into office, it's important for Suffolk to give power to the people.

"[Power to the people] makes it a better country like it makes [Suffolk] a better place to work," said Anastasia. "I think that collective bargaining and giving Suffolk staff a voice will make Suffolk a better place."

The letter had outlined goals from "Our Suffolk" that explained that they looked to collaborate with the entire campus, including the administration.

"We are proud of Suffolk and have great respect for your leadership," the letter read. "On behalf of the faculty, students and staff who support our right to form a union, we ask you to honestly and diligently consider our request."

Obama leaves lasting impression on Oval Office

Haley Clegg
Photo Editor

The year was 2008 and the first ever African American president was moving into the Oval Office. A long eight-year journey laid ahead, and he had made big promises to the American people. The major successes and failures of Barack Obama's presidency have defined the truly unique eight years he served as President of the United States.

Perhaps the most distinguishing accomplishment of his presidency was universal health care. The Affordable Care Act (ACA), otherwise known as Obamacare, set out to improve access to health care as well as curb spending through regulations and taxes. Regulations that were put into place included; patients were not denied coverage for preexisting conditions, young adults could stay on their parents insurance plan until age 26, Medicaid eligibility was expanded and gender discrimination was eliminated.

As of early 2016,

the ACA, provided approximately 20 million people with health care according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Stacy Daniel, the president of the Black Student Union said in an interview with The Suffolk Journal that she supports the ACA.

"It insured those who probably wouldn't ever have health insurance," said Daniel. "It helped those who could not afford it, so they received subsidies for reduced premiums. There currently is no better option in place, and that speaks for itself."

The ACA was far from perfect. Some people viewed Obamacare as an infringement on personal freedom since individuals were required to be covered, or pay a fine for noncompliance. Prior to this law, people had the choice on whether they wanted health insurance or not. This put financial pressure on low-income families who previously chose to not purchase insurance.

Suffolk freshman Matthew O'Brien said in an interview on Thursday with The Journal that

newly inaugurated President Donald Trump is going to provide solutions to these issues.

"[Health care] needs to be more of a free-market option," said O'Brien. "Insurance companies can bargain for the best price to give the consumer the best product, because after all that is the object of capitalism, to provide the best product at the lowest possible price."

One of Trump's campaign promises was to repeal and replace Obamacare with a new plan that he claims to be working on. On the day of his inauguration, Trump signed an executive order to begin rolling back the ACA.

According to the executive order, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the heads of all other executive departments and agencies with authorities and responsibilities under the Act have the authority to provide flexibility to states in regards to the regulations of Obamacare. According to the order, Trump's goal of the Patient Protection and ACA is to minimize the economic burden while they are pending

repeal.

Daniel said she is optimistic about the future of health care in the U.S.

"It's very sad to see all the hard work of an administration just be reversed," she said. "But like President Obama said, if they have a better plan, that works and is viable - I will be the first to applaud it. Same goes for me."

Obama left the White House with a pro-environment legacy. In 2015, the Climate Accord in Paris was approved by 195 countries that vowed to lower their greenhouse gas emissions in order to combat the adverse effects of climate change on the Earth.

In an address from the White House, Obama said, "This agreement sends a powerful signal that the world is fully committed to a low-carbon future."

With this deal, Obama intended to lead the country away from non-renewable resources and towards cleaner energy such as wind, solar, and nuclear power.

On Dec. 22, 2010 Obama repealed the "Don't Ask Don't Tell"

See *OBAMA* page 4

Boston pressures, actions taken against Trump

From *ORDER* page 1

issues passports for members of terrorist organizations,” said Gazzani. “If he does ban Venezuelan citizens on any kind of visa, to enter the country, I’m going to see myself affected with that and that’s something that concerns me and my family.”

Suffolk’s Acting President Marisa Kelly offered comments to the Suffolk community that was sent in an email on Sunday afternoon regarding the executive order.

Kelly assured that upper administration has been in contact with students who could be directly impacted by this order and said that those students from the seven countries are in Boston and are safe. She said that there have not been reports of Suffolk students being detained in trying to enter the U.S.

“I want to assure members of our community that the leadership of Suffolk University supports you all,” wrote Kelly. “Suffolk is a diverse, inclusive, and global institution, and we put the highest value on welcoming individuals from all over the world.”

Gazzani wrote on his public Facebook page shortly after Kelly’s email was sent that he was proud of the acting president’s statement.

“At SGA we will continue to do our part to ensure all students at Suffolk feel safe in their campus,” said Gazzani. “We have a very diverse community which will

always count with our support.”

Assistant Provost of the Division of Student Success Kathy Sparaco said that Suffolk has nine students from the affected countries.

“Six of the students are on campus and three are on a post-program work experience that is available for international students,” said Sparaco to The Suffolk Journal on Sunday night.

Sparaco said that the Division has worked with all international students on their immigration questions and will continue to “advise the best [they] can in any situation.”

Protests on Friday at Boston’s Logan International Airport rallied against Trump’s travel ban. Boston government officials such as Senator Elizabeth Warren, Mayor Marty Walsh and City Councilor Tito Jackson were stationed at various terminals and spoke to demonstrators on the ban.

“It is illegal. It is unconstitutional and it will be overturned,” said Warren through a megaphone as protesters echoed her words. “An attack on anyone for their religious beliefs is an attack on the very foundation of democracy.”

Former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton tweeted on Saturday night where she spoke out against the travel ban.

“I stand with the people gathered across the country tonight defending our values and our Constitution,”

tweeted Clinton. “This is not who we are.”

A statement from Mayor Walsh was sent to The Journal over the weekend that condemned Trump’s order.

“Preventing people from entering this country based solely on faith runs counter to everything we stand for as Americans. Let’s be clear: this is not an effective way to combat terrorism and increase homeland security,” said Walsh. “It is a reckless policy that is rooted in fear, not substance, and further divides us as a nation and a world.”

“It is simply morally wrong,” said Walsh.

Mayoral candidate and city councilor Tito Jackson provided his remarks to this executive order in a late night interview with The Journal.

“The ban flies in the face of the US Constitution,” said Jackson. “It’s against in which the U.S. was founded on, especially religious freedom, and will be detrimental to the Boston area economy. Boston is an international center of learning and medical treatment, two fields that depend on the free flow of talented individuals coming in and out of the our city. It’s reckless, it targets Muslims and we will not stand idly by and allow Donald Trump to hijack our city and government.”

Jackson explained that he has put forth legislation to protect sanctuary campuses so that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) cannot enter public schools without

authorized permission. He also said that he will oppose further restrictions and alienation of Muslims.

“We will resist any Muslim registration in any form and we will protect the residents and citizens of the city of Boston.”

Walsh and Jackson both joined a rally hosted by the Council of American-Islamic Relations and the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center (ISBCC) on Sunday afternoon in Copley Square.

Protests erupted nationwide on Sunday in Boston, New York City, Minneapolis, Washington D.C., Los Angeles, Atlanta and in Dulles Airport in Virginia

Attorney General Maura Healey announced that her office is joining a lawsuit challenging Trump’s executive order on immigration.

“Harm to our institutions, our citizens, and our businesses is harm to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,” said Healey according to a press release on Tuesday afternoon. “The President’s executive order is a threat to our Constitution. On behalf of the Commonwealth, my office is challenging the immigration ban to hold this administration accountable for its un-American, discriminatory, and reckless decision-making.”

Healey took to Twitter to outline her frustration throughout the weekend: “Donald Trump has taken a wrecking ball to the Statue of Liberty.”

The Chapter Chair



Hailey Clegg/ Photo Editor

of the New England Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), Susan Church, sent a press release to The Journal on Sunday.

“These policies will do little to improve national security and will create enormous delays for people coming to the U.S.,” said Church. “In Massachusetts and across the nation, these policies will put discrimination based on faith or national origin on the books. We cannot stand idly by and let this happen.”

Church urged Warren, Senator Ed Markey and Massachusetts representatives in Washington D.C. to stand up against these such orders and said that there will be a negative impact on families, business and the reputation of the U.S. rooted by this executive order.

“The recent executive action taken by President Trump is both severely disturbing and alarming,” said SGA President Sean Walsh in a statement to

The Journal on Monday night. “The Student Government Association’s purpose is to serve as the voice of all students, and advocate directly for their interests. This will continue to be the case because now more than ever, we as students need to look out for one another.”

Trump sent out a statement through his Facebook page on Sunday night that explained that the U.S. will continue to show compassion to those who look to flee oppression but will only do so while protecting U.S. citizens and the border.

“This is not about religion - this is about terror and keeping our country safe. There are over 40 different countries worldwide that are majority Muslim that are not affected by this order,” said Trump. “We will again be issuing visas to all countries once we are sure we have reviewed and implemented the most secure policies over the next 90 days.”

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A WORD FROM SGA

Dear Suffolk University,

We hope you all had a well-deserved, relaxing winter break, and that your semester has started off on the right foot. We understand that things have gotten off to a fast start this New Year, but we still encourage all members of the student body to reach out to the Student Government Association with any questions or concerns. We are here to be a resource for you.

With the New Year, SGA has made some of our own changes. We have launched a new logo that we are proud to show off. We feel that the new design and colors better represent SGA and the entire Suffolk community. Please check it out on our social media, on Twitter and Instagram @SuffolkSGA, and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SuffolkSGA.

This semester will be a busy one. SGA will be holding events such as the Annual SGA Awards and the Cultural Fair. Look out for these events and more as the semester goes on. Elections for the spring semester will also be happening soon, election packets will become available for all positions on February 9th. For more information about elections or running for open positions either for this semester or next, please reach out to sga@suffolk.edu.

SGA holds weekly general meetings that are open to the entire Suffolk community, and we encourage you all to join us. If you have thoughts, questions, or concerns, we have an open forum for anyone to bring issues forward. Our meetings are Thursdays at 12:15 in Somerset B18, please join us!

-The Student Government Association

Trump's debut week offers immediate action

See *TRUMP* page 1

directed agency heads to "immediately withdraw" all submitted regulations from consideration.

Throughout the beginning of his first week in office, Trump also signed an executive order to hasten review of high-priority infrastructure projects. The move likely set the stage for construction on the pipelines to restart. Both are opposed by many environmental and Native American activist groups due to the risks the pipelines pose to the environment and Native American sovereignty. Keystone XL's builder TransCanada announced it would re-apply following Trump's executive order. Another executive order will expedite the environmental review of large infrastructure projects, according to the Washington Post.

In addition, Trump ordered many science-related agencies, including the National Aeronautic and Space Administration and Environmental Protection

Agency to cease all social media activity in what critics called a "social media blackout." In response, so-called 'rogue Twitter accounts' sprang up, representing a defiance of what some see as a restriction on freedom of speech.

Five days into his presidency, Trump began to tackle his own hallmark issue: immigration. On Jan. 25, the President signed a series of executive orders directing the Department of Homeland Security to use existing funds to begin construction of a wall along the U.S. southern border with Mexico, a centerpiece of his campaign promises.

On Friday, Trump signed Executive Order 13770, titled "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the U.S." The order suspends the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program for 120 days, with the door left open for Trump to extend it as he sees fit. It also suspends entry of citizens of seven countries - Libya, Sudan, Somalia, Syria, Iran, Iraq

and Yemen for 90 days.

The New York Times reported shortly after the order went into effect that non-citizen students and green card holders returning to the U.S. were being stopped at airports. Bloomberg reported as many as 60 green card holders and others with valid visas being detained at Dulles International Airport, a few miles outside the nation's capitol.

Amid nationwide protests, District Judge Ann Donnelly of New York ruled on a case brought against the government by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of several Iraqis stranded at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport around 9 p.m. on Saturday. The decision, in which Donnelly implied the detainees' constitutional rights were most likely violated but refused to rule on the constitutionality of the order, means some one to two hundred immigrants and refugees in transit or currently stuck at U.S. airports could not be deported.

On Monday, Trump reorganized the National Security Council's (NSC) Principals Committee (PC), placing White House advisor Steve Bannon on the PC while removing the position reserved for the Director of National Intelligence (DNI). The NSC is tasked with handling the nation's most critical and top-secret national security operations. According to official White House press releases, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and DNI will only sit on the PC "as and when matters pertaining to them arise."

On Monday, acting Attorney General Sally Yates was fired for "refusing to follow a lawful order," according to the White House. Yates told Justice Department lawyers not to defend the Executive Order against lawsuits, essentially rendering it unenforceable, just hours before her firing. Yates was notified via letter of her dismissal.

In a statement released via email to members of the Suffolk

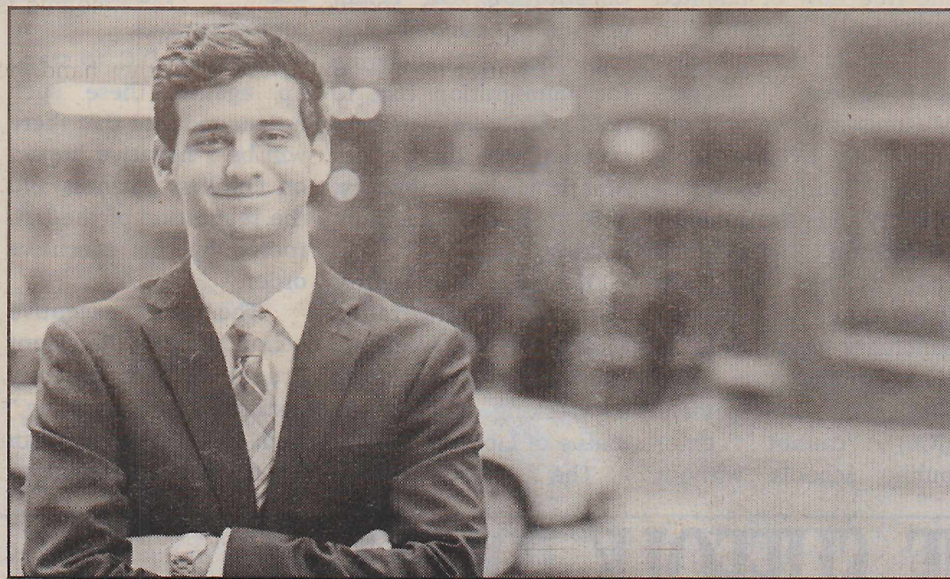
community on Sunday, Acting President Marisa Kelly said that while the university is watching the situation closely, no Suffolk students have had any issues returning to the U.S. as of late.

"I want to assure members of our community that the leadership of Suffolk University supports you all," said Kelly in the email. "Suffolk is a diverse, inclusive, and global institution, and we put the highest value on welcoming individuals from all over the world."

Alyna Khan, a freshman majoring in sports marketing, went home for the weekend to see her grandparents off on a trip to the Middle East.

"My grandparents were raised in Pakistan. They're Canadian citizens, but they're going back to Pakistan. If they don't let them back into this country, I don't know what I'd do. They're green card holders. They're concerned he'll add Pakistan to the list. All their healthcare, money, everything is over here."

SGA VP focuses on the future



Courtesy of Daniel Gazzani

From *SGA* page 1

SGA, a point he made by tabling at international night in the fall, as well as attending every international student orientation session. Gazzani also said many of the new senators that were elected this academic year were international students and there continues to be a peak of interest for diversity within SGA.

In the spring of 2016 when Gazzani was elected vice president, he said that Suffolk garnished its highest ever voter turnout. He said that with

the number being around 600 out of a few thousand undergraduate students, and a usual voting rate of 10 percent, Gazzani explained that another one of his ambitions was to work toward an increased turnout. One of Gazzani's roles last semester was to conduct the fall SGA elections.

"Usually [fall semester elections] has around 200 to 250 voters," said Gazzani. "This year, we had over 550. It's funny [SGA Treasurer] Cam [Viola] always says that's entirely because of my efforts. I think I was just doing my job."

As a motivated and diligent member of SGA, Gazzani is not afraid to step on others toes to get things done.

"But there is also no shame in calling other people out for their mistakes," he said.

Looking toward his upcoming time as a member of SGA, Gazzani envisions a bright and optimistic future for the university.

"I think we are all on the right track," said Gazzani. Hopefully we will have a lot of passionate people involved next year. I can see good things happening."

Obama leaves lasting legacy despite critics

From *OBAMA* page 2

policy. This was a huge step forward for LGBT rights. Obama's action brought an end to discrimination against gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals from serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

A key characteristic of Obama's administration was that he had the most diverse cabinet in history. His cabinet consisted of eight white males, four white women, three non-white women and seven non-white males. Trump's cabinet picks are the least diverse since Ronald Reagan was president. If his nominees are confirmed, 17 positions will be filled by white males, two white females, two non-white females, and one non-white male.

O'Brien sees diversity in Trump's cabinet in a different way.

"People are more focused on the gender or ethnicity of a candidate, rather than their ideas and I think that that's such

a problem," said O'Brien. "We're so focused on identity politics in 2017 that we can't even have a conversation about policy. President Trump's cabinet may be the least ethnically diverse and in terms of gender but I think we're going to see that it's very diverse in terms of ideology."

While Obama was ultimately successful with the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, otherwise known as DACA, he has received some backlash for his immigration policies. DACA provides undocumented immigrants with work permits and a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation, as long as they were brought to the U.S. as children.

Obama will also go down in history as having deported the most undocumented immigrants from the U.S. during his presidency. Over the course of his eight years in office, over 2.8 million people were deported according to a

Closing the country

Suffolk immigration expert weighs in on Trump's wall

Elvira Mora
Journal Staff

On Jan. 25, President Donald Trump addressed the Department of Homeland Security about his most recent executive order. He introduced his intentions to build the Mexican border wall he leaned on as a stalwart of his presidential campaign to gain support from a fearful, conservative midsection of America.

"A nation without borders is not a nation. Beginning today, the United States of America gets back control of its borders," he said in the press conference. "The Secretary of Homeland Security, working with myself and my staff, will begin immediate construction of a border wall."

Ragini Shah has been a Clinical Professor of Law at Suffolk University since 2007 and founded Suffolk's first immigration clinic that represents detained immigrants, as well as unaccompanied minors, who face removal situations in cases that focus on criminal, family, and immigration law.

Regarding Trump's plan to bolster America's southern border security with a wall, she remains doubtful that the new legislation will be effective in deterring people from coming to the U.S.

"It is important to note that 650 miles of fence and barriers already exist because of something called the Secure Fence Act that was signed in 2006," said Shah. "That fence did not stop people from coming to the U.S. but did make it more dangerous and expensive for them to cross."

Shah has taken a strong position on current American politics, as well as racial tensions that she believes are exacerbated by advocates of stricter immigration.

"I am troubled by the image of immigrants as a negative for the United States. I am equally disturbed that so many

decisions are made either in the absence of evidence or despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary," said Shah.

President Trump has continued to make his agenda clear on Twitter. On Thursday he consecutively tweeted, "The U.S. has a 60 billion dollar trade deficit with Mexico. It has been a one-sided deal from the beginning of NAFTA with massive numbers of jobs and companies lost. If Mexico is unwilling to pay for the badly needed wall, then it would be better to cancel the upcoming meeting."

Following a Friday phone call with Mexico's President Enrique Peña Nieto, Trump told various media outlets that the conversation was "very good".

He elaborated, saying "we are going to renegotiate our trade deals and we are going to renegotiate other aspects of our relationship with Mexico and in the end I think it will be good for both countries."

On Friday he tweeted, "Mexico has taken advantage of the U.S. for long enough. Massive trade deficits & little help on the very weak border must change, NOW!"

Shah said she feels this wall will fray an already delicate relationship between Mexico and America.

"It does not engender a sense of cooperation or communication, but rather a sense of fear and distrust," she said. "This is a strange feeling to have toward our southern neighbors who are strong economic partners."

Section one of the executive order signed on Jan. 25 stated "Among those who illegally enter are those who seek to harm Americans through acts of terror or criminal conduct. Continued illegal immigration presents a clear and present danger to the interests of the United States."

While Trump has expressly condemned immigrants illegally

See WALL page 6

Well traveled, war-hardened poet joins Suffolk writers

Amy Koczera
Journal Staff

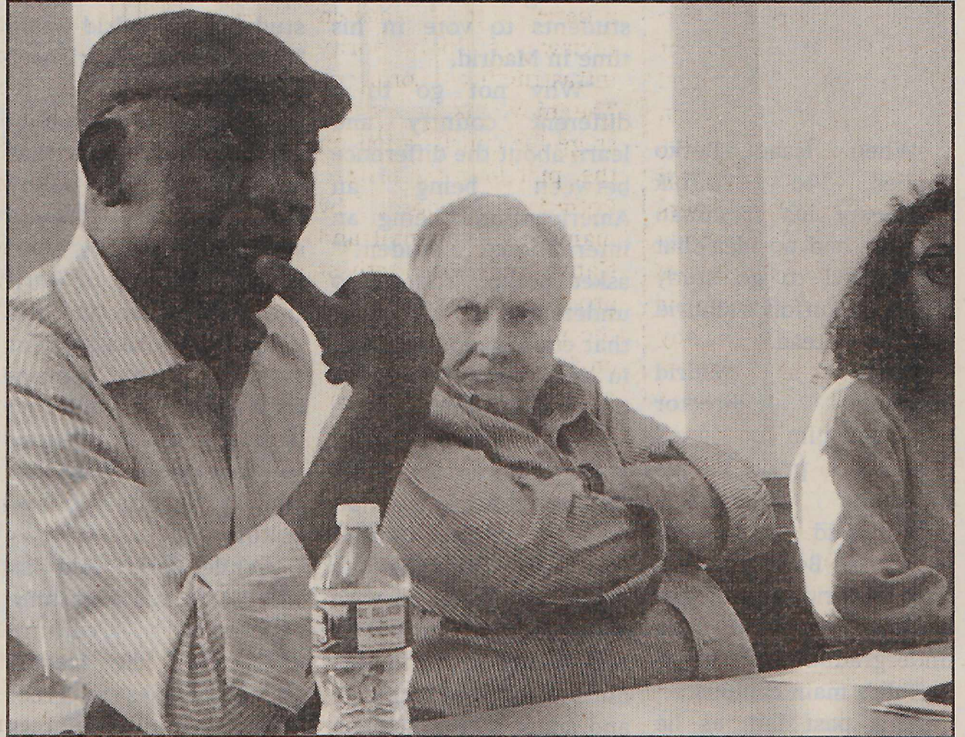
American poet and New York University professor Yusef Komunyakaa captivated audiences through his enchanting poetry on Thursday and Friday as part of Suffolk's Poetry Series put on by the English and Creative Writing department. Students and teachers gathered to witness Komunyakaa read his world-renowned poetry inspired by events throughout his life, particularly the time he spent as a correspondent during the Vietnam War.

Accompanied by Suffolk English professor Fred Marchant, Komunyakaa gave two poetry readings on Thursday in Modern Theatre. On Friday, Komunyakaa hosted a writer's roundtable for Suffolk alumni of the Creative Writing department, along with any other student poets willing to share their work.

Komunyakaa is a Louisiana-born poet who served in the United States Army as a press correspondent in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970. Using his experiences as a correspondent, he wrote 15 poetry books based on his time in Vietnam. He has garnered attention from an international audience for his profound ability to capture the politics attached to the Vietnam War while he incorporated the emotions and nature he witnessed while in Vietnam into his poems.

According to Komunyakaa, the war is what encouraged him to take up poetry. He said his process for writing poetry is similar to an internal dialogue. He also reflected on how his travels and race have impacted his poetry.

"Traveling around the world is a dialogue with extended possibilities," said Komunyakaa. "Everything we encounter becomes a part of us in some way."



Amy Koczera/ Journal Staff

Throughout his life, he said he has been careful to consider and incorporate the events he endures into his poetry.

After writing several books, he received numerous awards such as the San Francisco Poetry Center Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award and eventually the Pulitzer Prize and the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award. Currently, Komunyakaa is a professor at New York University in the graduate creative writing program.

During Thursday evening's poetry reading, Komunyakaa's eloquent voice filled Modern Theatre. The silence of the audience deepened with every word he spoke as memorable imagery and symbolism within Komunyakaa's poems instilled a resonating peaceful ambiance throughout the room.

Although his poems do not have an overtly controversial theme, they naturally possess a political undertone to them, Komunyakaa said as he elaborated upon his writing process.

When asked how it feels to be an American, specifically in the wake of the recent election, Komunyakaa said that, to him, being an American means realizing that "America is an idea that is still a work in progress."

Throughout

Komunyakaa's life, he has come in contact with people of all different races and backgrounds. As a whole, Komunyakaa explained to the audience that he believes there is a part of him that has changed over time and is always changing.

On the other hand, he said because he has been through so many different experiences, Komunyakaa feels there is another part of him that is constant.

"There's a part of me that remains unchanged," he said. Feeling both changed and unchanged inspires creativity within Komunyakaa.

"It's the process of arriving at some unknowns" said Komunyakaa. "Albeit you may think a poem may be headed in one direction, it may happen that you reach an unexpected ending."

When comparing the process of writing poetry to living in modern society, Komunyakaa explained that in a world with so much noise and action, "We have to be listeners sometimes."

After listening to Komunyakaa read his powerful poetry, aspiring young poets in the audience had the opportunity to ask him questions.

Curious about Komunyakaa's creative process, some audience members asked questions

about how his morals have had an impact on his poetry. Others asked Komunyakaa if he listened to music while he wrote or if there was any type of music that inspired the rhythm of his poems.

Additionally, Komunyakaa shed more light on the creative process at the writer's roundtable on Friday afternoon.

Thoughtful minds, young and old, gathered with Komunyakaa to share their personal poetry and think out loud and discuss rootedness, uprootedness, life, death and all other elements that go into constructing poetry.

The roundtable was structured along the lines of an educational discussion between skilled writers. Rather than lecturing about how to write, Komunyakaa commented on the style of each poem and expressed appreciation for each poem's individuality.

Perhaps one of the more insightful points discussed at the roundtable was that poetry is a dialogue with oneself. Komunyakaa and the other poets considered why we write poetry anyway.

"It is a beckoning towards listening," Komunyakaa said, "and maybe that is the reason we write."

Suffolk study abroad escapes election

Questions
on wall
continue

Skylar To
Sports Editor

When Isaac Berko applied to Suffolk University his freshman year, he had no idea that he applied to go study abroad at Suffolk's Madrid campus instead.

When a Madrid resident director contacted him for signed documents prior to his university acceptance, Berko said he meant to go to Boston rather than Madrid and began working toward an undergraduate degree at Suffolk's main campus.

This past fall, as he neared the completion of his undergraduate degree, the 22-year-old senior and politics, law and courts major with a philosophy minor finally spent the semester in Madrid that he once signed up for.

As a self-proclaimed politically active undergraduate, his decision to leave Boston and explore Spain made him miss another historical event for the U.S. -- the 2016 presidential election.

While he was physically absent from

Boston during the time of the election, Berko said he followed the turbulent turn of events closely, raised awareness and encouraged American students to vote in his time in Madrid.

"Why not go to a different country and learn about the difference between being an American and being an international student?" asked Berko. "You get to understand the culture of that country you're living in and you get to bring that back to America."

When he landed in Madrid on Aug. 23, Berko said he did not know what he was getting himself into. He thought he would not be faced with a language barrier, but he said he had to familiarize himself with the language and adapt to the Spanish lifestyle.

"If you come from a different country, like America, and you go to study abroad, they would want you to adapt to their culture and in this country," said Berko. "I feel like we don't see that happening in [America]."

Besides residing in Madrid for about four months, Berko had the opportunity to travel to Portugal, which he said was a comparable distance from Boston to Washington D.C., for one week. He also visited

the cities of Salamanca, Valencia, Granada, Andalusia, Seville and Galicia. Exploring other areas of Europe and Spain, in addition to studying in Madrid was a "phenomenal experience" for Berko.

"People who study abroad should take that initiative to really study the country they're studying abroad in," said Berko. "You got to learn the atmosphere and the people, because you went to study in that country for a reason, so you come back and tell your story to other people how that country you study in how culture felt."

While Berko said his whole trip was a learning experience, cultural differences like kissing on the cheeks to greet others, avoiding elbows on the table, no shouting across the street, dressing professionally and learning about the country's political chain were eye-opening experiences for him.

Taking his love for structured government with him on his travels, Berko learned about the country's government structure and observed laws.

Berko knew to not mention or talk about Francisco Franco Bahamonde, a Spanish general and dictator

who ruled Spain from 1939 to 1975. Franco opposed political parties, languages other than Spanish and religions other than Catholicism. It was not until his death in November of 1975 that political parties were legalized and Spain regained their democratic republic, which still remains today.

"You really felt that [the Spaniards] were still really mourning and still hurting [about Franco]" said Berko.

Berko, an advocate for former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, followed the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign closely while studying abroad. He said appointing businessman Donald Trump as the 45th president of the US is the "saddest" thing ever for the nation to do.

After the election, he said people gave him and his friends hugs, comforted them and apologized about the results of the election and even picked up their restaurant tabs.

"That feeling was so strong; wow, they care about us," said Berko.

Berko feels that the U.S. is a divided country, especially after the result of the presidential election.

He referenced non-verbal abuse from both

sides shortly after the election results instead of standing in solidarity as a nation; in contrast, he said the Spaniards he met united in solidarity for him and America.

"We don't care about the culture here," said Berko. "Culture plays in the role of how each person treats each other and how each person correlates with another person's culture."

Now that Berko is back in Boston finishing his last semester as an undergraduate, he is also working as a volunteer for City Councilor (D-District 7) Tito Jackson as he plans to make a mayoral run against current City of Boston Mayor Marty Walsh.

"We're trying to navigate to see who could be potential volunteers for the campaign to talk to and target," said Berko. "And spread the message of who Jackson is."

He is also even "seriously considering" a friend's suggestion to study law in Spain for two years post-graduation. He just needs to work on being a fluent Spanish speaker.

"I think [studying abroad is an incredible thing]," said Berko. "I believe that every student should definitely go out and explore and learn about different cultures."

From *WALL* page 5 entering the United States without proper legal documentation, he hasn't spent much time discussing those who enter the country legally but then overstay their visas.

House Homeland Security Committee's Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee Chairwomen Martha McSally outlined this problem in an 2016 interview with Breitbart news, which Trump's chief strategist and senior counselor Steve Bannon was previously affiliated with.

She stated that that four of the September 11, 2001 hijackers entered the U.S. legally, but then overstayed their visa's leading up to the attack.

In the most recent Entry/Exit Overstay Report by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, it was reported that the amount of Canadian immigrants who overstayed the terms of their visa is more than double the number of Mexican immigrants who overstay their visas.

To date, Trump has yet to express concern over illegal immigrants entering the country from the north even after six muslims were killed by a white, Canadian national at a mosque in Quebec.

WORLD BRIEFS

YEMEN | NAVY SEAL KILLED

It was announced Monday that Chief Special Warfare Operator William "Ryan" Owens, 36, was the first United States service member killed in combat under the Trump administration. Owens, of Peoria, Illinois died after he was wounded during a nighttime raid on an al-Qaeda-held village in Southwestern Yemen last Saturday. The Pentagon released a statement that said Owens was assigned to an "East Coast based Special Warfare Unit," also known as the elite Navy Seals. Secretary of Defense James Mattis said in a statement, "The United States would not exist if it were not for the selfless commitment of such warriors." Owens was awarded two Bronze Stars with Valor distinguishing devices and received eight Sea Service Deployment ribbons. He will receive a posthumous Purple Heart award.

QUEBEC | MOSQUE SHOOTING

Canadian authorities for the Quebec City have charged Alexandre Bissonette, 27, with carrying out the Quebec Mosque attack that has killed six. Bissonette, know for his alleged far-right sympathies, has been described by acquaintances as a socially awkward introvert who had recently embraced toxic political views, according to multiple news sources. He was charged Monday night with six counts of first-degree murder, and five counts of attempted murder with a restricted firearm. Bissonette opened fire on 50 worshippers on Jan. 29, just as they were finishing their evening prayers at a small mosque in Sainte-Foy. Five of the victims are still in the hospital. The incident is still under investigation, but is being treated as an act of terrorism, according to multiple news sources.

A

ARTS & CULTURE



HERES WHATS NEXT

Chinese New Year Observation,
movie review

Watch out for next weeks edition

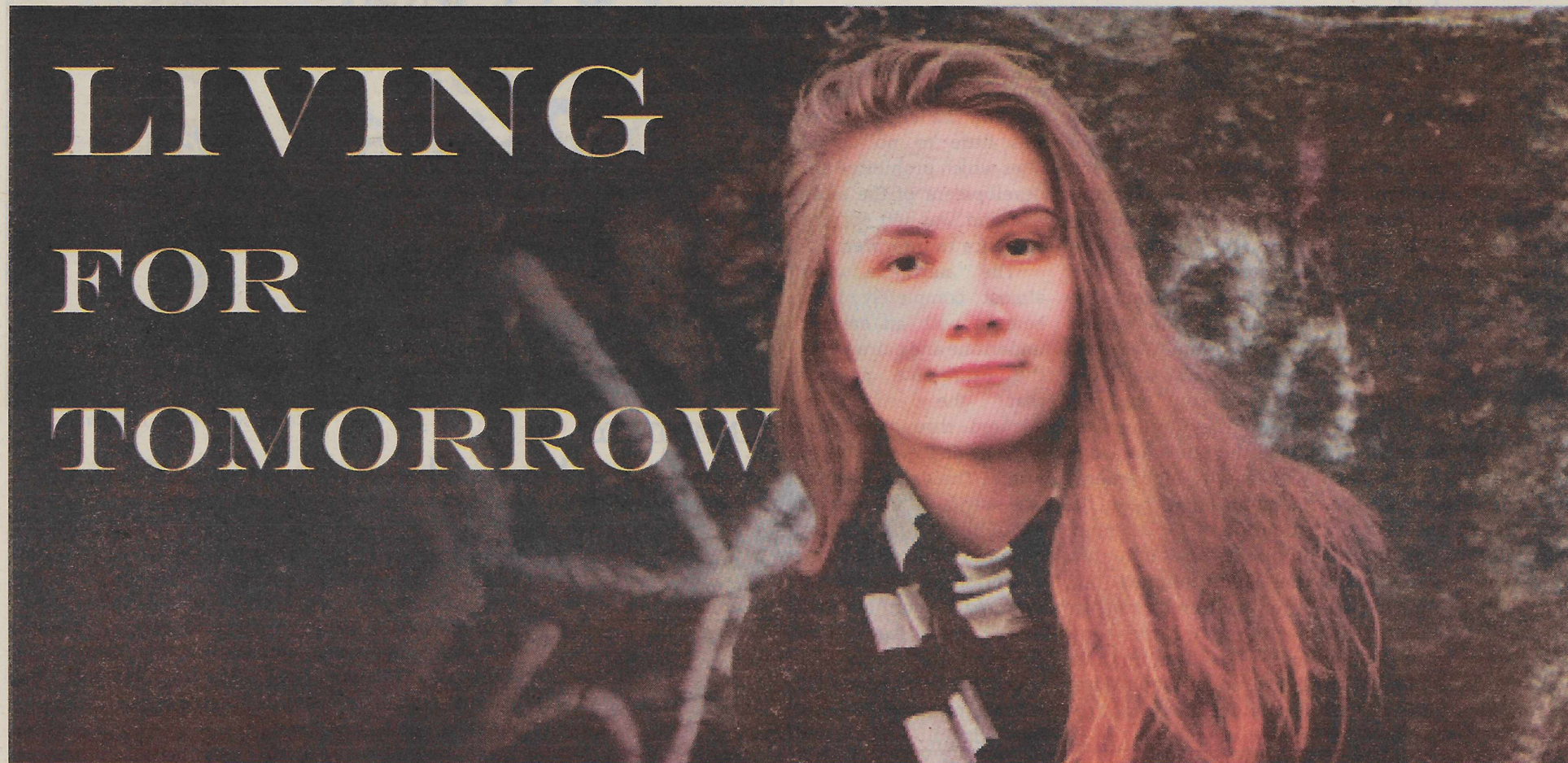


VIEW THE COLLECTION

Launch of photojournalism
blog "Uncovered with Flash"

sjuncoveredwithflash.wordpress.com

FEB. 1, 2017 | PAGE 7

LIVING
FOR
TOMORROW

Courtesy of Kseniia Kamalova

Suffolk student Kseniia Kamalova recently was nominated for the Region 1 Planet Earth Award after submitting her 10-minute play, "Full of Life," to the 2017 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Felicity Otterbein
Arts Editor

With the hype that surrounds the natural environment and the growing concept of climate change, it's difficult to bring people together in a serious way to discuss the issues that affect the immediate future. Some would rather turn a blind eye and refuse to commit to the existence - or lack thereof - of the current status of the planet.

Perhaps the best way to communicate the potential outcomes that might stem from the current course of human action on the planet is through art.

Suffolk junior theater major Kseniia Kamalova was recently nominated for a Planet Earth Award at The 2017 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival for her 10-minute play submission, "Full of Life." This award is reserved for those who address issues of climate change, the environment and surrounding issues of urgent concern. In her production, Kamalova draws attention to the concept of ultimate world destruction and the potential loss of the entire human population.

In a recent phone

interview, Kamalova told The Suffolk Journal that her original intent of the play was to complete an assignment for her playwriting class offered by the theater department. The class was instructed to write a 10-minute play to submit to the festival and out of her small class, Kamalova was the only one to be nominated for an award.

Kamalova and the rest of her peers had the opportunity to study with accredited playwriting professional, Professor Kate Snodgrass. A former Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival National Chair of the Playwriting Program, Snodgrass currently serves as the artistic director of Boston Playwrights' Theatre and is a professor of the Practice of Playwriting at Boston University.

According to Kamalova, she originally set out to create a thought-provoking piece, but did not intend to invoke certain emotions regarding the environment.

"People make plans for the future, but I mean we don't know what's going to happen," said Kamalova to The Journal about what she feels her play is about.

In a real sense, Kamalova is correct in the idea that the future is a mystery and an impossible puzzle to solve.

Kamalova's play depicts the final conversation between what appears to be two people who remain nameless throughout the play and have managed to separate themselves from the rest of the world's population. In what seems like a seemingly normal chat, the two discuss their life ambitions, their future plans and reflect on their childhood memories. It seems as though the pair is unbothered by a slowly decreasing number on a monitor that supposedly represents the size of the living human population. What is causing the decrease is unclear but both parties seem to have accepted the impending doom.

Like Kamalova said, the future is fickle and despite all efforts to alter what people assume their future should or should not be, no one knows what the ultimate outcome will be because the only sure thing in life is death.

What Kamalova does excellently is portray death as an easy and forgivable event. The nameless characters in the play represent the human race and the house with which the scene is set in represents the world we live in. The pair, although not shown as intimately involved, carry pleasant and cheery conversation and have accepted the outside

world for what it is. They have made no effort to change what happened in the world that is outside their bubble and have seemingly moved on to something more interesting.

While this kind of relaxed ideology is not the current social norm, it acts as a wake-up call to the world in the sense that it provides audiences with an alternate, yet very obtainable future.

Perhaps Kamalova did this on purpose for an audience to ponder the actual cause of imminent destruction. Ignorance to scientific fact, or maybe the general hubris that comes with being part of the human race was what lead to the final day of human existence.

What is a potential positive note to carry through life however, is that while the future is uncertain, the constant concept of cause-and-effect is always present. Once the human race accepts certain scientific facts and understands their role in protecting and preserving the environment, the immediate future should be relatively simple to comprehend and predict.

The 2017 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival started in 1969 and is a national theater program involving 20,000 students from colleges and universities nationwide annually.

"Title TBA" springs into second semester as first Suffolk stage performance

Elvira Mora
Journal Staff

Kicking off the spring semester in the Suffolk University theater department was the return of the Spotlight Series, "Title TBA." The Spotlight series is an entirely student run series showcasing developing work that is written and directed solely by students.

Supposedly, "Title TBA" gained a large amount of buzz from people who wanted to know the actual title instead of attempting to guess the title and the theme of the performance, as well.

The irony of the 'to be announced' title was that "TBA" had stuck. Student director Erica Wisor explained, "'Title TBA' had posters already made. It became an ongoing joke. It created a lot of attention since people wanted to know what the actual title was but it later became a joke that was in the show as well."

Wisor wrote and directed the twenty-minute long installment

that captivated a full audience. The first installment was brief since it acted as a teaser to the rest of the series. This was in order to let the general audience know what the theater department is up to.

Wisor told The Journal in a post-show interview that had the entire cast more time to meet together, the show would have lasted longer than just twenty minutes rather than the allotted hour and twenty minutes usually designated for the student performances.

"The show was cut so short due to rehearsal times, there was only one rehearsal with the full cast," said Wisor.

Performed at the Sullivan Theatre on the 11th floor of Sawyer, the theme of the show was similar to a circus because a cast member dressed as a ringmaster presented himself along with his crew to signify the start of the show. Every member of the cast was dressed in black clothing from head to toe with bright hues of pink and blue splashed only

See *TBA* page 8

Spotlight series returns to Suffolk stage

From *TBA* page 7

as though the performers had been crying colors.

The atmosphere of the performance was mysterious and strangely welcoming with ominous music vibrating through the speakers. One of the crew members hung back and looked down toward the audience with a focused expression, as though he was in deep thought. As the unnamed man began to talk, he spoke of a woman whom he had had previous relations with, before she left him. While he spun this tale of misfortune, the cast members surrounding him began to act out the story in the form of exaggerated movements as though it was an interpretive dance.

The woman of interest then took the stage, next to the man who was now sitting and waiting for her approval. She inquired if she could practice in front of the man, with loving eyes the man agreed. She then practiced her "set" which consisted of making different sounds directly into the microphone repeatedly, which visibly caused the audience to uncomfortably squirm in their seats. The next and final scene was every character out on the stage. They collectively made the audience laugh with zappy, high energy moments that held the attention of the audience until the very end when the lights blacked out. After muttered musings over whether the show had come to an end, the lights returned and Wisor alerted the crowd that the show had ended.

Although Wisor's creative abilities were shown through the interpretive dance that encompassed a major part of the show, there was little to no verbal lines which prohibited the development of the story line and was left for the audience to interpret.

The narrative was almost completely light hearted with an earnest undertone and paired with the expressive manner that the characters adopted throughout the show made it endearing to watch. The dance portion was swift and elegant and although there was no obvious structure, every scene flowed in sync with one another to tell a riveting tale of emotion. The manner in which this was conveyed was abstract and thought-provoking.

American Repertory Theater transcends image of trans-community

Kendra Huber
Journal Staff

Imagine the surprise when arriving to a stage filled with nothing but seven empty chairs. No backdrop, no color, just plain, black chairs on a brightly lit stage, creating a sense of raw intimacy. Often, the stage is filled with extravagantly beautiful sets, decorated with details that bring us to a place of dream-like illusion.

Writer Paul Lucas fills these seats with humor and intellect, bringing to life his first full-length play, "Trans Scripts," produced by the American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.). Through vibrant monologues, the audience is taken on a journey of courage, alienation, confusion and self-discovery.

"Trans Scripts is part of an ongoing initiative at A.R.T. to feature the work of transgender and gender non-conforming artists," writes Diane Paulus on the program, the Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director in A.R.T.'s 2016-17 season introduction.

When the lights come up, seven characters are introduced, whose stories have been assembled from more than 75 interviews with transgender women from across the globe, as a demonstration of strength and diversity.

These narratives begin at infancy, as each character recalls the first time they heard the word "transgender," and suddenly, realized who they were. From these individual moments of awakening, each continues on their unique journey of self-discovery, as they realize they are different.

Rejected for who they are, some of these transgender women find themselves pushed out of their own family, while others struggle to live without families at all.

Some find themselves questioning who they could love, and if they could even really love themselves.

Shelley Bridgman, a friend of Paul Lucas who was the first woman to be interviewed for this project, spoke boldly as she recalls her own journey to self-acceptance. As a successful businesswoman who owned the second largest travel company in the United Kingdom, it was hard to come out as what society often deems as unnatural. When Bridgman chose to go public, she began to receive calls from her clients, saying they could no longer continue to do business with her. Soon afterward, her company went under.

"Trans Scripts" reminds some viewers of the challenges many individuals face when defining their identity, especially in countries across the globe that claim to appreciate individuality and self-expression. From infancy, we are socialized to fall into behavioral patterns that align with a dual structure, and there is often intolerance and fear when individuals do not identify within these expected gender boundaries of male or female.

Sometimes gender identity is not easily calculated. Lucas speaks to these complications by addressing the serious misunderstanding of what it means to be transgender in a predominately cis-gender culture, while showing his audiences how challenging the journey to liberation can truly be.

"Life," wrote Paul Lucas, "is a compromise." There's no definitive narrative or predictable outcome for the life we are given, for who we are born to love, and for what we are born to look like. But Trans Scripts is a beautiful attempt to make sense of all these non-conforming complications, and shed light, and hopefully understanding, on what it means to be a transgender individual in a predominantly binary world.



Courtesy of Flickr user carnagenyc

COMMENTARY

We must keep the arts alive, despite Trump threats

Morgan Hume
Journal Staff

We cannot afford to live in a black and white world, when up until now we've been living in a world of vibrant colors. We cannot afford to let theaters, universities and museums across the country suffer by stripping them of their federal aid. We cannot afford to take away some of the nation's greatest institutions to pinch a penny or two.

Those are the key points I want to convey to President Donald Trump because in his first few weeks in office he has already introduced ways to reduce the federal budget. Over the next ten years, Trump plans to cut federal spending by 10.5 trillion dollars, according to a recent report.

Although that may sound wonderful, it's not. In order to accomplish this, Trump believes we need to eliminate funding arts and cultural programs that rely on government aid, specifically the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Vanity Fair reports. He wants to privatize the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), as well.

Many people argue that arts are just a hobby, so the amount of people that make a living from them is very slim. However, more than 4.74 million people worked in the arts and culture industry as of 2013, according to a study by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The president speaks endlessly about creating new jobs, but these large budget cuts would be taking away jobs from thousands of people, which means they may do more harm than good.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis also found that arts and cultural production contributed more than 704 billion to the U.S. Economy. Therefore, to stop funding NEA and NEH, and to privatize CPB would also hurt the economy.

This accounts for 4.2 percent of the United States' GDP. In other words, arts and cultural production have contributed more than construction (586.7 billion) transportation and warehousing (464.1 billion) industries.

On top of all of this, the Washington Post reported that reducing or stopping funding the organizations would only save the country about 0.02 percent of the total budget, so there isn't much to be gained expect the nation facing a "cultural dark age."

The last thing this nation needs is to sink further into darkness.

Cultural programs also give grants to places like libraries, public television, museums and universities to make education about the arts easier for everyone to access and prosper from. If Trump succeeds in stopping the funding for NEA and NEH, and privatizing CPB, the useful institutions that millions of people utilize every day will suffer the consequences.

Although Trump's goal is to reduce federal spending, that doesn't make defunding these organizations right because they are important in the lives of the American people. They increase creativity among adolescents and teach them how to think outside the box; a helpful life skill. They teach adults that self-expression is powerful and can influence change. Through art, people can raise awareness about controversial issues, share a personal story, show off a unique talent and add a splash of color to the world.

They give young people like me somewhere to grow and thrive, so when it's time to step out into the real world, they have the courage to do so.

I participated in school theater productions from the beginning of middle school to the end of high school. Those performances molded me into the person I am today, by teaching me not only how to put on a great performance while the spotlight blinds you and your heart is racing, but how to make long-lasting friendships and work together with others. Without arts programs, I wouldn't be the confident and hard-working person I am today.

The arts may cost thousands of dollars to fund and support, but the lessons to be learned and the experiences to be gained from them are priceless. No matter what happens, we must remember that the arts were alive long before Donald Trump, and they will be alive long after Donald Trump.

Marching through time: Women combat being silenced, again

Katie Dugan
Asst. Opinion Editor

Not long ago, someone I was dating at the time was making dinner for the two of us. When I asked him if there was anything I can do to help, he said no, that I could "just sit there and look pretty."

"That's boring," I replied.

I was not raised to "sit there and look pretty." I was raised in a household where being intelligent was cool and being curious about the world made you well rounded, grateful and humane. I was raised in a household that taught me there was so much more to life than abiding societal expectations.

As I got older, there were times when being a woman felt like I was drowning. Societal pressures became hard to ignore. Within seconds of meeting someone, you feel like they have already formed an opinion of you. When you're a woman, it's easy to lose yourself.

During the Women's March in Boston, I found myself again. Camaraderie and solidarity was in the air in downtown Boston, you could feel it.

Everyone had their own personal reasons for attending the Women's March. I thought about my close female friends and peers, my female co-workers, my friends who are considered minorities, my LGBTQ friends, but during the march I thought the most about the woman marching beside me, my mom.

As I get older, I notice that our mothers tend to have a negative stigma toward them. Things such as "I'm turning into my mother," seems to be a popular phrase among women in their 20s. I admit I am guilty of saying it, but the March made me realize that I would be proud to be like my mother.

Watching her take in the day on Saturday was like watching a kid in a candy store. She loved the posters and got especially

excited when we walked by a group of women dressed like suffragettes posing for a picture.

"Is that goin' to be you one day after you retire, are you going to be one of those people who dress like suffragettes and guides tours?" I asked her.

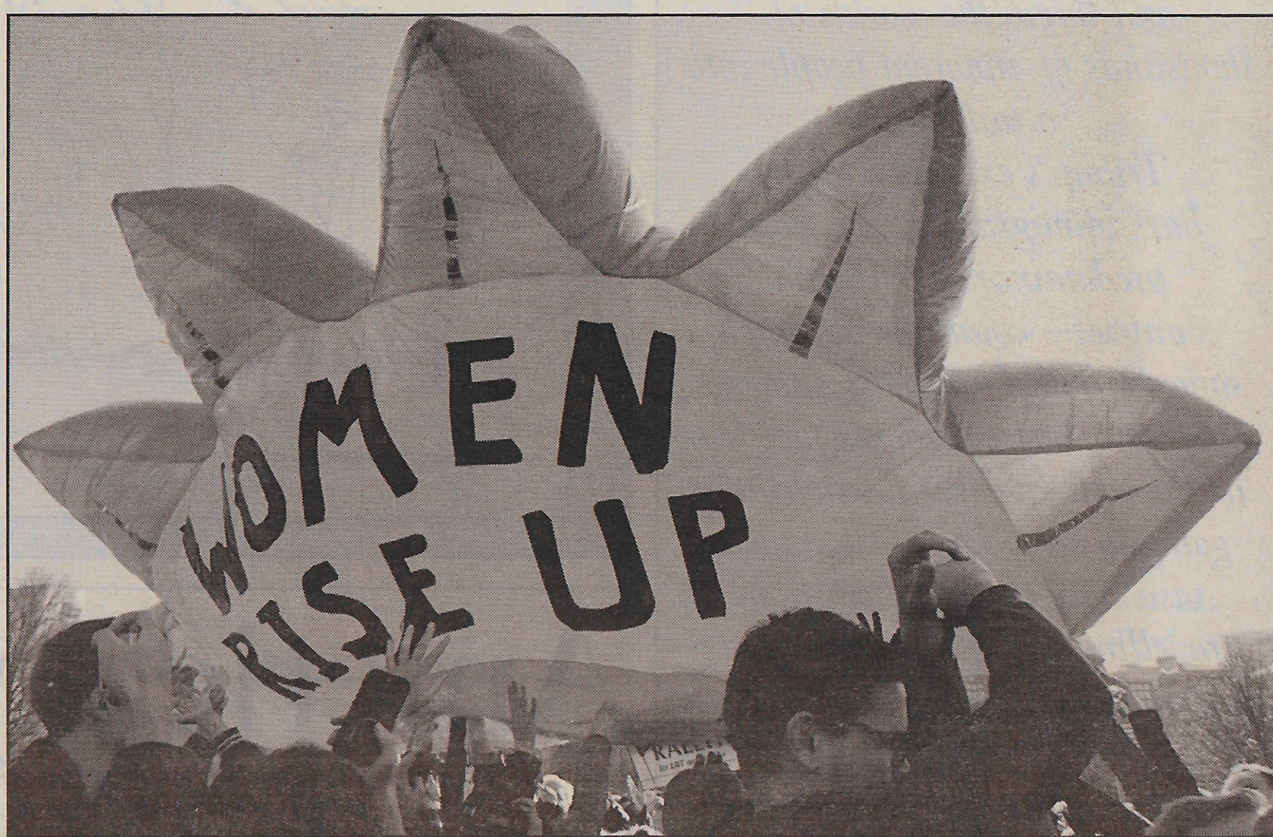
"Yeah, probably," she laughed.

While I loved seeing my mom so excited about the march, at the same time it was incredibly heartbreaking. It was sad to realize that someone 30 years older than me was protesting for rights we should already have.

I am fairly new to feminism and only started educating myself about it since its resurgence a few years ago, when I realized the dress code I was subject to in high school was incredibly sexist. Through educating myself it did not take long for me to realize that being a proactive feminist is both frustrating and exhausting.

There are a lot of misconceptions about feminism and what it means to be a feminist. From observing my mom, I learned the first step in being a feminist is being compassionate. I was always taught the importance caring for others, because there's always someone who has it worse. I recognize my privilege; I am white, cis-gender, able-bodied, and middle class. I am not a perfect feminist by any means, however I understand that while some of the changes in Washington D.C. may not affect me directly, I have a responsibility to use my privilege to educate myself and to rally behind those who will be affected. I am fighting, and will continue to fight, to give them a voice.

The key to feminism is to not give in to the opposition. There is a post going around on social media called "This Woman does NOT Support the Women's March." Out of curiosity I thought I would entertain this backward way of thinking. I read three sentences before I was



Sonia Hubbard/Journal Staff

ready to ignite a Facebook fight.

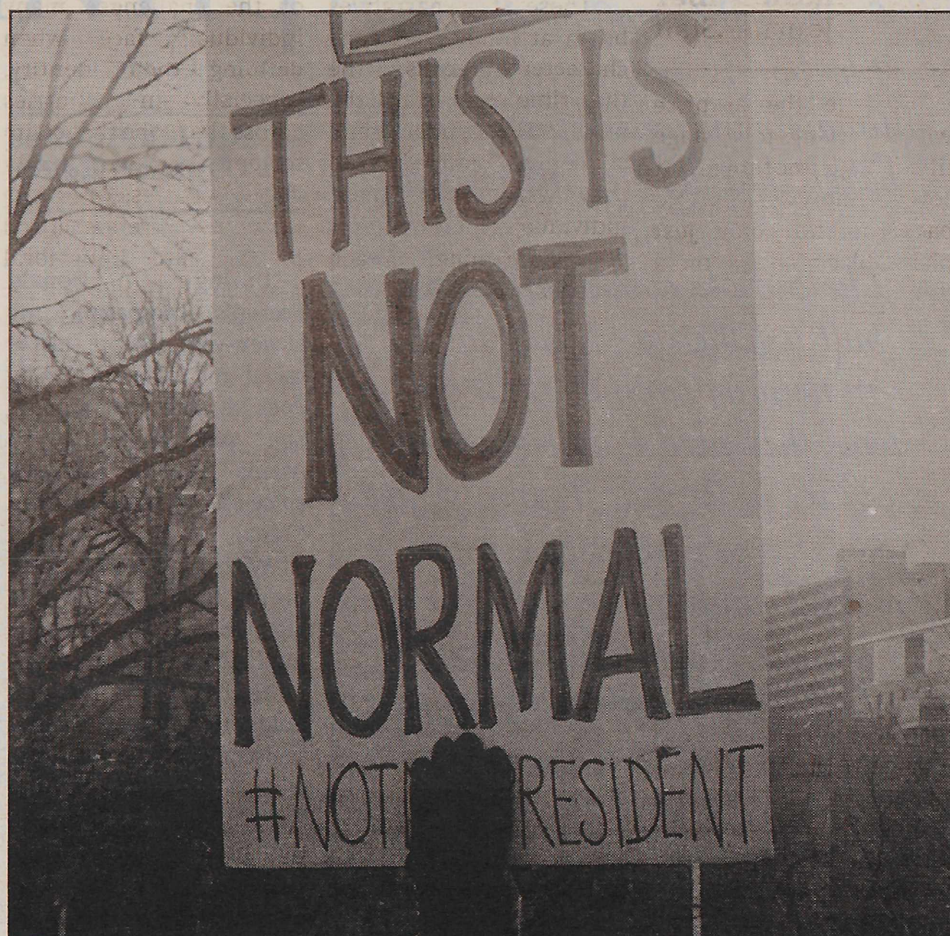
When I told my mom about it she said, "It's better to be proactive and ignore the ones who can't be moved."

It's easy to start an argument with someone while staring at a screen, and sometimes it's a little bit of a thrill, however, it does nothing.

I am inspired by not only my mother's optimism in this movement, but that of all the men and women of older generations who showed up on Saturday. These people have endured much more criticism than I have and continue to contribute to the cause with their heads held high.

There is a Zen Proverb that goes something like this; the student says "I'm feeling very discouraged, what should I do?" The master says, "Encourage others." Since I first came across this a few years ago, it has stuck with me. When people say negative things about the Women's March, it's important to remember while they were sitting at home and bragging about being anti-feminist on Facebook, three million people came together and demanded change.

The intergenerational aspect of the march was the most moving for me. My mother expressed



Sonia Hubbard/Journal Staff

"I have a responsibility to use my privilege to educate myself and to rally behind those who will be affected."

to me that there is an intense universal feeling of wanting a better future for their children. They need their children to keep it going in their footsteps. I hope the young women who attended the march feel this duty as much as I do.

I have high hopes

that this movement will extend the dialogue beyond Facebook comments. Until Saturday I had never felt prouder and more empowered to be a woman. I would even go as far to say it was one of the greatest things I've ever experienced. But this movement goes beyond

holding up signs and wearing pink knit hats. I hope it will inspire us all to donate, volunteer, and support candidates who represent what we believe. This movement will be the catalyst for a better and brighter future for everyone as long as we continue to support it.

EDITOR'S WORD

When President Donald Trump announced his immigration ban late Friday night, he pushed the country further toward instability and threw the worlds of thousands of innocent people into a tailspin.

Trump's executive order bars immigrants from seven predominantly Muslim countries-- countries in which some Suffolk University students are from. These students face fear as the consequences for rightfully going to school under a student visa may prevent them from travelling out of the country, as they may not be able to enter back in.

That is a shame for the Suffolk community and the nation; both of which thrive off of diversity. The ban is un-American and ultimately unconstitutional in the belief that all men are created equal.

The Suffolk community must pull together to provide those in need on campus with the tools they need to navigate this executive order that Trump signed so carelessly.

As Trump implements his catastrophically misguided policy, which supposedly allows for a review of the country's refugee screening process, he has needlessly made the world a more dangerous place for innocents from those countries in transit whether they be U.S. students, professors, scientists, spouses and family members that have been banned from a country they were hoping would provide new stability and a new opportunity.

This is not who America is and this is not who Suffolk is.

"Oh don't worry about him, please come in!"



Claire Schneider/Political Cartoonist

America, your privilege is showing

Patrick Holmes
Opinion Editor

During Donald Trump's campaign, my eleven-year-old sister asked my parents, "Why does he hate my people?" She was referring to Asians as 'her people' since she is adopted from China.

With this newfound insight into how this man affected my young sister, my heart could not break more for what her future holds. She could not understand why someone who is supposed to be a role model, to uphold the highest power and dignity, hates an entire race before he was even president.

Yet, despite his ignorance and hate speech, he had enough support from my fellow Americans to become president. Because of this, I do not blame Trump for being president; I blame the 'Americans' who plunged the United States into a dark age, by voting for him.

I blame every person who sets his or her ignorance as a precedent to creating an opinion about someone. An opinion is no longer valid

if it infringes upon the rights of another person, if it is hateful or demeaning, or if it is substituted for fact. It then becomes hate speech, which is a dangerous road we are currently driving on.

Hate speech has grown roots in the uneducated Americans and even some educated ones, and has developing opinions based on others have with

minorities.

I am unable to answer why people hate others who are different from them or are passive aggressively hateful, but my best solution for hatred and misunderstanding is education. Not only academically, but socially and emotionally. In this way, education may combat the insecurities others have with

affected by the executive orders of Trump and who voted for him have abused their privilege. One of America's most prominent problems is the belief some citizens hold that another's life is of less importance than their own.

That belief is wrong.

Their selfishness is appalling. From taking away rights from it's citizens to not supporting foreign refugees in dire need, we are not altruistic in any sense. Our country is filled with a deep-rooted hate for everything 'different' from the societal norms we have created.

When did we, as a society, become so ignorant to the facts and truth? When did we become so morally wrong? When did we stop trusting each other?

I cannot answer a single question above. But with so much hate speech spewing from the mouths of my fellow citizens, I choose love and I will not accept the hate as a 'new normal.' This is not the America I know and love. These are not the values America was built on.

We are more than this. Let's actually make America great again, but with love.

"When did we, as a society, become so ignorant to the facts and truth?"

common misconceptions. It is unacceptable to use derogatory terms to try to prove your point. In fact, it takes away from your argument and in turn, creates hate speech.

It has become widely misunderstood that one has the right to use their beliefs and opinions to control the rights of others. The importance of an opinion is to give solutions or to offer advice, not to control or manipulate. When an opinion is used in such a way it becomes hate speech, which normally occurs when one attempts to deny someone his or her basic human rights, more often than not,

themselves that they relentlessly target other people with. Hate speech is an example of this and is usually caused from misunderstanding and fear.

Culprit of judgment, I can understand to an extent some people's discomfort with differences. However, that is not an excuse to use hate speech or to target someone because you have clashing beliefs. Patience and understanding can go a long way.

In a similar way the U.S. is now failing morally and ethically because of the abuse of privilege. People who are not

Patriots and Falcons kick-off Super Bowl LI

Falcons seek first ring as Brady chases fifth



By Instagram Users @patriots, @atlantafalcons

The New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons take the field at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas on Feb. 5.

Hannah Arroyo Journal Staff

As the playoffs come to an end, the New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons find themselves to be the last two teams in the running for the Lombardi trophy.

The National Football League (NFL) consists of 16 regular season games, and for some a chance at the playoffs and the ultimate dream of taking their team to the Super Bowl Championship. Will the Patriots make a run for another Super Bowl win and defend their title? Or will the Falcons win the franchise's first Super Bowl win?

For the Patriots, going to the Super Bowl is nothing out of the ordinary. This marks the ninth time in franchise history that New England has advanced to the Championship, which is the

most appearances in NFL history. In total, the Pats have four Super Bowl Championship wins from 2001, 2003, 2004

and 2013. One similarity with all these wins is the pairing of Head Coach Bill Belichick and quarterback Tom Brady. With the Patriots franchise, the two have made seven Super Bowl appearances.

"It's very good for our team to be able to achieve this," said Brady in a recent press conference. "I think we've done a good job taking advantage of our opportunities. It's a very hard mental and physical team that has shown a lot throughout the season."

While there have been many struggles in the past for the Falcons, this year the team found

finished first in the National Football Conference (NFC) South. The team ended with an 11-5 record and clinched their first NFC division title since 2012.

Although Atlanta was defeated in their week one game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, they would go on to win their next four games of the season. During the regular season, the Falcons put up a total of 540 points, which is tied for the seventh best in NFL history.

Quarterback Matt Ryan threw for a total of 4,994 yards, which was second in the league this season. During a win against the Carolina Panthers, Ryan had a team record of 503 yards and four touchdowns.

The Patriots defense have "done their job" this season only allowing an average of 15.6 points per game. While New England's defense has been impressive, Atlanta's offense flourished this season as they scored a league best 33.8 points per week.

These two teams also butt heads in the fact they have two quarterbacks that finished with great seasons. Ryan may outnumber Brady in this

season's stats, but Brady did not play in four regular season games due to his suspension. Ryan ended the season with 4,994 passing yards and 38 touchdowns compared to Brady's 3,554 passing yards and 28 touchdowns. "Tom's had an unbelievable year," said Ryan to the Boston Globe. "He's played extremely well, and been extremely efficient. A lot of touchdowns, very few turnovers. He's just played really really good football."

The Atlanta Falcons are less familiar with being in Super Bowl territory as this will be only their second Championship appearance. The last time they went to the Super Bowl was in 1998 when they lost 34-19 to the Denver Broncos. This leaves the franchise without a single Super Bowl win in the 51 years that the team has existed.

Before the league announced the 2016-17 season schedule Patriots, fans were troubled with the news that their star quarterback had to serve a four-game suspension for the Deflategate scandal. The scandal refers to how the Patriots were accused of

tampering with footballs in the 2015 American Football Conference (AFC) Championship.

Many wondered how New England would play with such a huge loss to their roster. Second string

quarterback, Jimmy Garoppolo stepped up to the

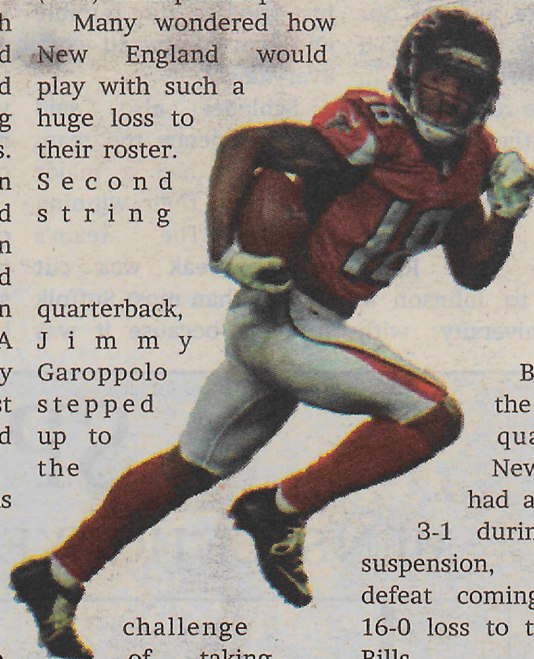
challenge of taking

Brady's place. Garoppolo got the first win for the Pats against the Arizona Cardinals.

In week two, after he sprained his acromioclavicular joint against the Miami Dolphins, rookie Jacoby Brisset took over for Garoppolo.

"I'm going out there with the mindset, 'I'm the starter,'" Garoppolo told WEEI at the end of August. "It's a great opportunity to get these first four games. We'll see where it goes from there. You never know

what's going to happen. It's a crazy league, and anything's possible, really."

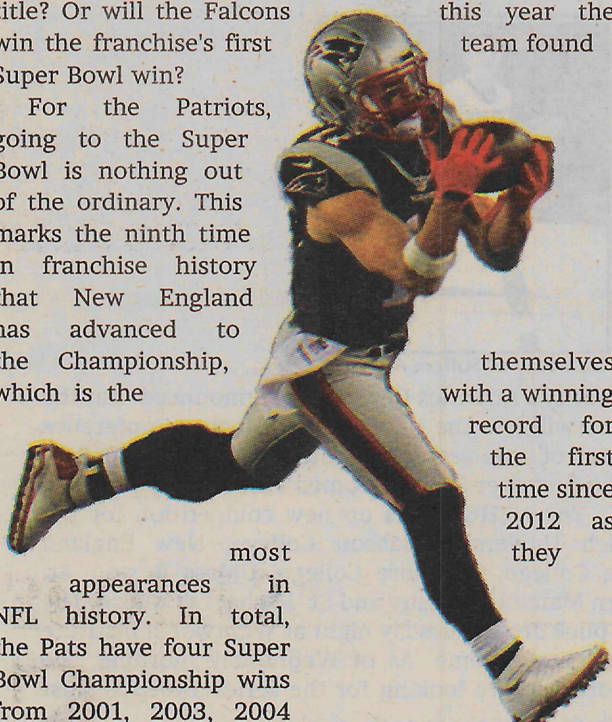


Between the two quarterbacks New England had a record of 3-1 during Brady's suspension, the one defeat coming from a 16-0 loss to the Buffalo Bills.

After coming off his suspension, Brady seemed unaffected by his absence and finished with a 13-1 record.

"Every year has its own challenges," said Belichick in a press conference. "Whatever they are, they are. Every team faces them. Every team has to deal with them."

The Super Bowl 51 will be played at 6:30 p.m. in Houston, Texas at NRG Stadium. The game will air on Fox and singer-songwriter Lady Gaga is scheduled to perform at the halftime show.



Lady Rams fast break into new year

Brooke Patterson
Asst. Sports Editor

Suffolk University's women's basketball team rang in 2017 by defeating nine out of the 10 teams they played. The Lady Rams took advantage of the clean slate January brought them when they went on an eight-game win streak, improving their record to 14-6.

Before they approach the playoffs, beginning on Feb. 21, the Lady Rams look to compete in their final five regular season games, one being senior day against Emmanuel College on Feb. 18 at their home court, Regan Gymnasium.

"We went into winter break knowing that the most competitive part of our season started when we got back at the end of December," said junior guard Alexandra Nagri in an interview with The Suffolk Journal on Monday. "I think we all bought in as a team and everything clicked. We are a well-rounded team with a deep bench which makes us very hard to match up to. That stretch was a huge part of our season and we knew if we kept working hard in practice the results would come, and they have."

The only loss for the team during the new year was on Jan. 26 when the Lady Rams fell short to Johnson & Wales University with

a final score of 54-49. Suffolk had the advantage come intermission, but was unable to keep it throughout the second half.

"We knew what we were doing, but toward the end of the game we got hectic and started panicking," said freshman forward Katelyn Rourke in an interview Monday with The Journal. "We tried to speed them up and press them, but they were getting three pointer after three pointer. We should've closed the game when we had our lead, but we took it for granted and lost ourselves."

The Lady Rams chose not to dwell on their loss and immediately started to focus their attention on the next game against the University of St. Joseph on Jan. 28. The outcome of the game added to the team's winning record.

"We took baby steps by keeping everybody's focus right in the present and not thinking ahead," said senior captain and point guard Kelsey Schiebel in an interview Monday with The Journal. "We constantly talked about not having a lot of wins affect us mentally. We just tried to stay humble and kept coming to work everyday."

Schiebel also said the confidence the team developed had a major impact on their winning record. The team's winter break was cut shorter than most Suffolk students because it was

"the heart of basketball season," she said.

The team hung out together over the break in order to make their chemistry stronger and did not let anything outside of basketball affect their vacation, said Schiebel.

"Overall, everybody has just done their job," said Schiebel. "What makes us such a good team is that we are so well balanced."

Rourke said the short time away from basketball gave the team time to re-energize and collectively get in a similar mindset.

"Coming into the season this semester we were more set on the mini goals rather than the big ones," said Rourke. "Just focus on the next game rather than three games ahead."

One of the most difficult things the team had to face this season was having a large number of girls who were unfamiliar with the program, explained Schiebel. The new year managed to bridge the age gap and allowed the freshmen to buy into what was going on with the team.

"The overall goal is with team and not with yourself," said Rourke, who was honored with her second Corvias Rookie of the Week on Jan. 23.

Rourke said the captains had a major impact on the team. She said they are good at keeping the team focused



Brooke Patterson/Asst. Sports Editor

Lady Rams regroup during halftime for a 85-53 conference game win over Rivier College on Jan. 19.

and united.

One of the three team captains, Schiebel, was added to the elite group of players with 100 game appearances in their college career.

"It didn't feel any different until after the game when everybody was like 'You've played 100 games,'" said Schiebel. "I feel thankful for the opportunity because not a lot of people get to play that many games in their career. Obviously, I am very happy that I have gotten to play so much

over the last four years."

It was a bittersweet feeling for Schiebel as she explained this signifies her senior season is coming to an end.

Schiebel said the game plan for finishing the season was to "just play our all and everybody do what they're supposed to do."

"Not underestimating Lasell [on Feb. 2] or Simmons [on Feb. 11] is going to be a major key for us to win," said Rourke. "Any team can beat any team at any

given time. We still have to play well and win."

The team has long-term goals, one being winning the Great Northeast Athletic Conference championship, but are still focused on the bigger picture of the entire season. Rourke said each week is similar to an entirely new season for the Lady Rams

"We still take it day by day, game by game but it makes the season a lot sweeter and more exciting when we are successful," said Nagri.

SPORTS BRIEFS

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY



Haley Clegg / Photo Editor

After a five-game losing streak, the men's basketball team chalked up a 78-64 conference win over Anna Maria College. Michael Hagopian scored a career high of 34 points to help the Rams come out on top. With his career high, Hagopian places second in program history for most points scored in a game since Sam Nuadike '15 broke the record with 39 points in 2014. The sophomore guard Hagopian has started in a total of 19 games this season for the Rams. He averages 32.3 minutes per game, while also collecting an average of 11.6 points per game. As the team looks to approach playoffs, they have six conference games remaining in the regular season. The Rams are back on the road again starting Wednesday night at 7 p.m. for a conference game at Rivier College, looking to improve their 5-14 record.

MEN'S BASKETBALL



Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics

On Jan. 25, Suffolk University's Athletics Department announced that the men's ice hockey program will join the New England Hockey Conference (NEHC) at the conclusion of this season. At the start of the 2018-19 academic school year, the first ever Suffolk women's ice hockey program will also join the NEHC. The NEHC opens up new competition for the Rams including Norwich University, Babson College, New England College, Castleton State College, Skidmore College, UMass Boston, St. Anselm College, Southern Maine University and St. Michael's College. The Rams head into a 7 p.m. puck drop Thursday night at Wentworth Institute of Technology for a conference game. As of Wednesday morning, the Rams have a 4-10-4 record and are looking for the series sweep against the Leopards for their first win of the month.